APPENDIX

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REPORTS OF REGIONAL CONFERENCES ON LIBRARY SERVICES FOR THE BLIND AND PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED

[Editor's note: State and local institutional participants in the national library network for the blind and physically handicapped, coordinated by the Library of Congress, arrange periodic regional conferences for the exchange of information and the discussion of mutual problems. Of the four regional groups, the Western, Northeastern, and Midlands regions plan and hold meetings annually. The Southeastern region at present holds a conference biennially in odd-numbered years alternating with the biennial national conferences sponsored by the Library of Congress Division for the Blind and Physically Handicapped. All but the Western regional group are represented in the conference reports which appear here. That region's most recent conference was held in September 1974, and was reported as Appendix I to the November 8, 1974 issue of the LC *Information Bulletin*.]

NORTHERN REGIONAL CONFERENCE
Boston, Mass., April 7-9, 1975

The Fifth Annual Conference of the Northern Region Librarians for the Blind and Physically Handicapped convened representatives from regional and subregional libraries as well as related organizations from Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Maine, New Hampshire, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, and West Virginia. The conference began with an informal reception on Sunday evening giving those new to the program the opportunity to become acquainted with colleagues, and all those present the chance to discuss areas of mutual concern. Representatives present were Steven Herman, Assistant for Network Support, who is the Division's primary consultant for the Northeast Region, and Morton Friedman, Automated Systems Coordinator, Division for the Blind and Physically Handicapped.

The Monday morning session was concerned with the methodology of reaching potential readers among the physically handicapped and learning disabled. Two speakers, Lillian Alpaugh who is a board member of both the Massachusetts Association for Children with Learning Disabilities and the Edition of the Learning Disabilities Gazette, and Sue Claxton, Director of Adult Programs, United Cerebral Palsy of Metropolitan Boston and member of several boards, presented many worthwhile suggestions to increase program visibility and describe available services. The afternoon session on Monday dealt with the role of volunteers in the program. Eileen Keim of New Hampshire discussed the Carroll County Outreach program in her state, and Alice Sizer Warner of Warner-Eddison Associates, who spoke on the scope of activities in which volunteers can become involved, distributed an extensive annotated bibliography *Suggested Readings on Voluntarism.* A tour of the new main building of the Boston Public Library, emphasizing the unique architectural features and the recently installed computer, followed.

The program for Tuesday, made possible by the Massachusetts Division of Library Extension, was conducted by John Nichols, President of the financial development and consulting firm Pro-Plan International, and President of the International Guild for Resource Development. Mr. Nichols gave a thorough and detailed analysis of the many sources of funding for reading programs for the physically handicapped, including foundations, trusts and bequests, chambers of commerce, and local jurisdictions. Tuesday evening, the regional librarians met to discuss the future of the conferences and to hear a presentation by Mr. Herman on the future plans of the Library of Congress Division for the Blind and Physically Handicapped.

The session on Wednesday was held at the Perkins School for the Blind in Watertown, Mass. Mr. Friedman spoke on the automated systems being developed at the Library of Congress, primarily the upcoming computer-produced book catalog. The first catalog is to contain 12,000 mass-produced items and the second, mass- and limited-production material. A discussion on format ensued. Also discussed was the upcoming selection system which will enable regional librarians to select copies according to their regional needs. Harry Friedman, Director of Howe Press, spoke on his firm's various products and services and Charles A. Butts, Director, Subsidiary Rights and Special Sales, Houghton-Mifflin Co. and member of the Association of American Publishers Copyright Committee, spoke on copyright. Following an introduction by Benjamin F. Smith, Director, a tour of the Perkins School was conducted. [*Steven Herman*]

SOUTHERN REGIONAL CONFERENCE
Atlanta, Ga., April 21-23, 1975

This Second Biennial Conference was attended by librarians from 11 regional and 14 subregional libraries representing the states of Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Texas, and Virginia. Special guests attending the conference included Ruth Covo, representing the Comite Internacional Pro Ciegos, Mexico; Andree F. Bailey, Institution Consultant, Florida State Library; and Alar I. Kruus, New York City Regional Librarian and Chairperson of the Northern Conference of Librarians for the Blind and Physically Handicapped. Attending and participating from the Library of Congress Division for the Blind and Physically Handicapped were Billy R. West, Volunteer Coordinator in the Volunteer Utilization Section, Donna M. Kemme, Reference Librarian in the Reference Section, Mary Jack Wintle, then Assistant Chief for Materials Development, and Donald J. Weber, Head of the Network Services Section. Mr. Weber is also the Division's primary consultant for the southern region.

After brief remarks from Florida Regional Librarian Katherine M. Jackson, 1973-1975 Chairperson of the Southern Conference, and Carl R. Sandstedt, the Conference's Host Librarian, the group was officially welcomed by Carlton J. Thaxton, Director, Division of Public Library Services, Georgia Department of Education. Mr. Thaxton emphasized his agency's commitment to the subregional library concept and announced that the Georgia state government recently approved continuing appropriations, $160,000 this fiscal year, to reimburse cooperating state subregional libraries (in Georgia, termed "Talking Book Centers") for service to the blind and physically handicapped. Miss Kemme then discussed recent Library of Congress activities, emphasizing the reorganization of the Division for the Blind and Physically Handicapped and the development of the combination talking book/cassette machine.

"Volunteer Recruitment and Training," moderated by James DeJarnatt, Volunteer Coordinator, Georgia Regional Library, was the theme of the conference's first panel discussion which followed. During this segment, panelists stressed the need to determine volunteer needs before inaugurating a volunteer program—to determine work to be performed, plan training programs to permit its accomplishment and to provide supervisory and evaluation mechanisms to insure that work accomplished conforms to the goals established for each volunteer activity. Mr. West followed this panel discussion with a formal presentation which emphasized the need for maximum end-product standards when working with volunteers. Afterwards, he moderated the conference's second panel discussion entitled "Cassette Duplication." This discussion highlighted the diversity of cassette duplication equipment currently utilized by network libraries, the requirement that minimum duplication standards be enforced and the need for continuous communication with DBPH concerning cassette program developments.

The afternoon session began with a talk by Mr. Weber on volunteer produced, print-braille children's books. In this presentation, print-braille was defined, its utilization by patrons and network participants was discussed, and a "how-to-do-it" segment concluded his remarks. A discussion of DBPH's retrospective cataloging project and other automation-oriented subjects was then presented by Miss Kemme. Donald Bailey, Texas Regional Librarian, then discussed current automation activities in regional libraries. In his presentation, he emphasized automated circulation systems currently operative at the Los Angeles, Texas, and Cleveland regional libraries. The conference's first day concluded with three tape-slide presentations prepared by the Georgia, Florida, and Mississippi regional libraries to inform the general public about the blind and physically handicapped library program.

The second day began with a description of the Southern Multi-State Center's activities and a discussion of possible areas of additional cooperation among Southern network participants. This segment, chaired by Katherine M. Jackson, was followed by a question-answer segment which illustrated the Southern network libraries' commitment to the Multi-State Center concept. S. Stephen Prine, Jr., of the Florida Regional and Mr. Weber then conducted an Interlibrary Loan Workshop. Afterwards, conference participants toured the Georgia Regional Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, the Atlanta Braille Library, and the facilities of the Atlanta Services for the Blind. In the evening, three group meetings were conducted: a subregional library caucus chaired by Joyce L. Smith of the Huntsville, Ala., subregional library; a regional library caucus chaired by Carl R. Sandstedt of the Georgia Regional Library; and a machine agency caucus chaired by Miss Kemme.

A panel discussion with the theme "Subregional Libraries: Funding, Staffing, etc." began the session on the third day. This segment was moderated by

Andree F. Bailey of the Florida State Library and highlighted the subregional library programs currently operative in Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, and Virginia. This program was followed by the conference's second subregional library panel discussion. This segment, entitled "Subregional Libraries Talk About Their Program" was moderated by Mary Peach of the Palmetto, Fla., Subregional Library. Discussions illustrated the continuing need for close interaction between subregional and regional libraries. This segment was followed by a talk presented by Emily Payne, Director, Tri-County Regional Library System (Georgia) which was entitled "We Ask Too Little." How network facilities can lobby to insure that adequate operational funding is made available to them was the subject of Miss Payne's presentation. Ruth Covo, representing Mexico's Comite Internacional Pro Ciegos then discussed the activities of her organization and its desire to formally initiate international interlibrary purchase/exchange/loan relationships. Following this, Miss Wintle discussed current and future divisional plans emphasizing DBPH's fiscal year 1976 appropriations, research and development, and international cooperation. A panel discussion on machine repair and distribution, moderated by Wynn Hunnicutt of the Georgia Regional Library, was next on the program. Methods employed by machine lending agencies in Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Louisiana, and Texas were the subject of this discussion.

During the concluding business meeting, participants elected Carl R. Sandstedt, Georgia Regional Librarian, its 1975-1977 Chairperson of the Southern Conference of Librarians for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, and debated and approved a number of resolutions. Approved resolutions included the Southern Conference's enthusiastic support of the Daytona Beach, Fla., Multi-State Center, a request for the development of quantitative minimum standards for regional and subregional libraries which serve the blind and physically handicapped, a request for the continuance and development of DBPH's Spanish language program, a recommendation that DBPH continue to regard its recataloging project/automation activities as highest priority, elaboration of network concerns regarding the selection of titles produced for the national program, a recommendation that regional libraries be automatically designated the primary machine lending agency for the geographical area it serves, and recommendations regarding interaction with Radio Talking Book stations and other organizations representing the blind and physically handicapped. [*Donald J. Weber*]

MIDLANDS CONFERENCE
Chicago, Ill., May 7-9, 1975

Representatives of regional and subregional libraries and other institutions in Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Nebraska, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Dakota, and Wisconsin attended the two-day conference. Richard Evensen, Program Analyst, and Steven J. Herman, Assistant for Network Support, DBPH, represented the Library of Congress. A reception was held on the evening before the opening of the conference, giving participants an opportunity to meet informally.

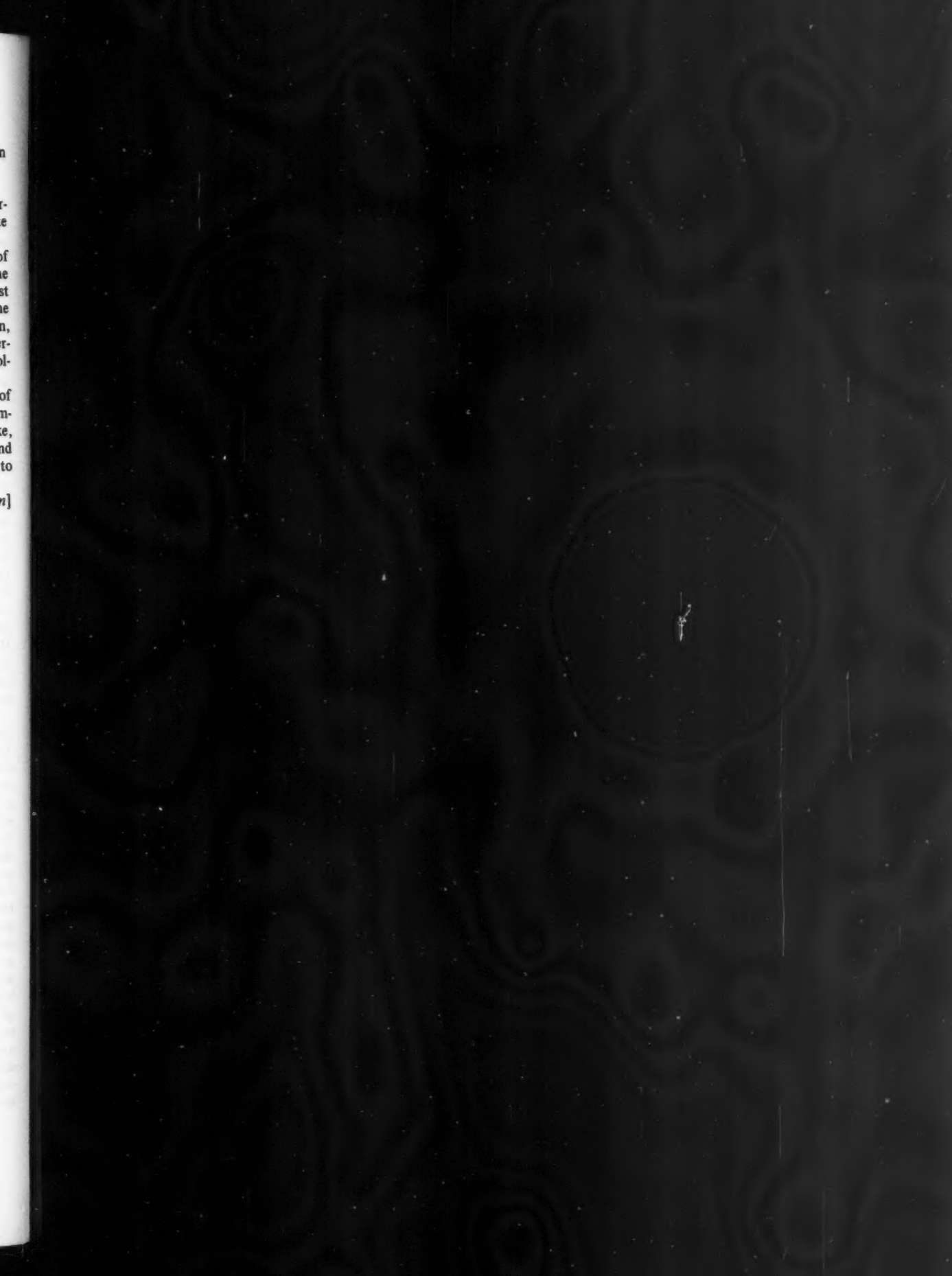
The Wednesday morning session was opened by David Reich, Chief Librarian, Chicago Public Library, who discussed the expansion and remodeling plans of his Library which include a new building for services to the blind and handicapped. The remainder of the morning session was concerned with the consumer. Speaker August Christmann, Governor of the Illinois Council, Congress of Organizations of the Physically Handicapped, indicated that at present little is being done by consumer groups in the area of attracting patrons to the service. More publicity is needed. Second on the panel was Mr. Evensen, who discussed two major studies conducted in 1974 involving consumer input: the braille readers survey and the 4-track cassette users survey. Mrs. Charlotte Des Jardins of the Coordinating Council for Handicapped Children spoke on her successful efforts in gaining support for her organizations and encouraged those present to consider some of her methods. Don Morrow, an SSI Planning Specialist and a user of talking book services for 30 years, described his experiences with the various programs. Mr. Morrow also discussed areas of service for future consideration. A luncheon was held at the Palmer House. Luncheon speaker Don Nold, Editor-Publisher of *Dialogue* magazine, discussed the background and current policies of the magazine, obtaining substantial feedback from the audience.

The first part of the afternoon session dealt with program publicity and was opened by speaker Peggy Barber of the American Library Association Public Information Office. According to Miss Barber, public relations is not publicity; it is doing a good job and telling about it. A panel presentation followed on "Radio-Talking Book Services: What Are They, Where Are They and How Do They Relate to Traditional Library Services?" Members of this panel, all of whom are actively involved in this area of service, were Bill McIlvain of the Oklahoma Regional Library,

Florence Grannis of the Iowa Regional Library, and Father Boniface Wittenbrink of WMRY Radio Talking Book, Belleville, Ill. While all presented slightly different approaches, they concurred on the unique ability of radio to bring to the blind more items of local interest and current information than would otherwise be available.

Thursday morning's program consisted of services available to the blind and handicapped through organizations other than the Library of Congress. Guest speakers included Michael Carberry of the Hadley School for the Blind, Betty Ware of Recordings for the Blind, and John Kuester of the American Bible Society. Mary Louise Thompson of the Voluntary Action Committee gave a presentation on the volunteers and their effective use. She indicated that in today's economy more and more people desire to do volunteer work. As leisure time increases, this trend will become more evident. She detailed the characteristics of volunteers and the types of appropriate work.

The afternoon session consisted of the Library of Congress presentation. Topics covered included the 4-track cassette study, the results of which had just been tabulated. Other topics were the Division for the Blind and Physically Handicapped reorganization, Multi-State Centers, and the 1976 National Conference. An extensive question-and-answer period followed. Small discussion groups were then formed.

The Friday morning session opened with reports of the Thursday discussion groups, followed by committee reports and a speech by Frank Kurt Cylke, Chief, Library of Congress Division for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, on plans and responses to issues raised by previous speakers.

[*Steven Herman*]